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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 172

SPEAKER BROMM: Mr. President, I just want to advise the body of an agenda change. The bill following this one, LB 270, would be moved to follow LB 721. Otherwise the agenda would remain the same. LB 270 moves to below LB 721. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 172 is a bill originally introduced by Senator Foley. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10 of this year, at that time referred to the Education Committee. The bill was advanced to General File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Foley, to open.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. President and members. I did have a complete opening and description of the bill prepared that I was going to go into. But on further reflection, I think I'll just save us some time here and scrap my opening remarks, and simply point out to you that there is a friendly bracket motion pending. We'll take this bill up next year. But also, beyond that, I wanted to point out that you'll find on your computer an amendment that I filed to the bill. We've been working and having some discussions with a number of senators over the past couple of days about how to craft an amendment that would be agreeable to the widest number of senators. And it's late in the session. People are tired. I'm tired. And we weren't able to quite bring that matter to closure. So there is an amendment out there. It doesn't quite work for enough people. So I just want to make this offer on the record, that I am happy to work with any senator who's interested to try to find a reasonable resolution of this matter, so that we achieve my purposes, which is to take this mandate off the public school system, but to achieve...to at least satisfy some of your concerns that the school districts still have some flexibility in this area; that we're not taking that away from them. So that's what I tried to achieve in the amendment. We didn't quite get there. So again, my offer is out to anyone, over the interim, to work through this, and try to see if we can't come up with a formulation of words that will satisfy the largest number of senators. So with that, I think